The no-people of Washington

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Are you a No-Person or a Gee-Guy? This is not a question for your neighborhood psychiatrist, but reveals a trade secret. The Washington Press Establishment has a habit of dividing the news-makers into these categories.

A No-Person is given the silent or scornful treatment. He might just as well be a bad Injun, a dope peddler, or a child moester. He could announce he has a plan to cut the budget $30 billion or prolong human life 15 years, and would get, at the most, two paragraphs among the want ads, or the supercilious treatment.

Senator Wayne Morse has long been treated as No-Person, apparently because the reporters can't keep up with his rapid fire delivery, and have decided to ignore him. He is also a maverick, and most No-Persons are mavericks.

Both Senator Eugene McCarthy and Governor George Romney have become recent No-Persons. They are covered, but in such a way as to appear they are bumbling fools. Estes Kefauver was treated as a No-Person in 1952 when he started out to challenge President Truman in the Democratic primaries.

The Press Establishment scoffed at him three times a week as an idiot who went around wearing a coon skin cap and trying to convince the shrewd Yankees of New Hampshire to vote for him, ha, ha, ha.

WHAT TO MY WANDERING EYES

Critics of the Warren Commission and especially James Garrison are treated with all the kindness and understanding we might expect for Castro or Mao Tse-tung. They are in the lowest caste of No-Person.

The Gee-Guy is regularly featured as a creature of inestimable wisdom and virtue. Every word is studied for its hidden sagacity.

A simple statement, "Pardon me, I have to take a leak," is "interpreted" to mean that gold will be supported at $35, indeed if every American is required to turn in his gold fillings.

Dean Acheson has always been a Gee-Guy largely, I suspect, because of his King's Guard moustache and stiff collars. These psychologically intimidated the journalists. Senator Everett Dirksen has become within the last two years a Gee-Guy whose every word, whether on the flora and fauna or the budget, is venerated as mystic gospel.

Lyndon Johnson was of this high rank during his entire stay in the Senate, while John F. Kennedy didn't make it until he was elected President. Suddenly it was discovered by the press he was charming, witty, intellectual and great.

The faults and foibles of a Gee-Guy are discreetly hidden. The tragic mental breakdown of James V. Forrestal while Secretary of Defense was never mentioned, but the comparatively mild Army record of Garrison has been shouted on front pages.

The ranks are not frozen. Hubert Humphrey was treated as a No-Person when he first hit Washington and very entertainly threw spokes in the wheels of the Senate feudalism. He became a Gee-Guy when he was elected Vice President.

Joe McCarthy went backwards. For a year everything he said, no matter how absurd, was treated as legitimate news and made the front page. But when he became bored with whacking foreign service officers and took on leaders of the Senate and administration, he became a No-Person.

The starving billions